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APPEAL FIVE YEARS AFTER ORIGINAL TRIAL

stands between them and those needing protection an organization of such potency is probably the most telling influence exerted by the bureau, as has been proved on numerous occasions when the mere demand for redress of wrongs has been met with alacrity.

"In commenting on this line of work, the *St. Louis Republic* observes: 'Our philanthropic lawyers are going to provide free, or nearly free, litigations for the poor. That is, they will take poor people's cases for nothing or next to nothing.

"We should condemn this philanthropic enterprise if its object were to encourage pauperism. But this is not the case. The guiding object is 'to help people to help themselves,' and the litigants will be allowed to pay whatever they can, be it ever so little. So that we commend it cordially, and the more so since a special purpose will be to attack loan sharks that wring usury out of the poor.

"In such excellent work every member of the bar might well bear a part. But it appears that the older members have left it all for the young ones. Every name in the list of those actively interested is that of a young man. Are only young lawyers philanthropic? Do they become colder and less unselfish as years wear on? Have old lawyers no time for poor clients and no sympathies?"

"There has never been a time in the history of the American bar when many of its members in their private practice did not unostentatiously and freely give their professional skill to deserving persons who were unable to recompense them. The establishment of free legal aid bureaus but emphasizes a trait of the legal profession which has never been adequately recognized or appreciated and the extent of which has never been half revealed. The public has been inclined to point out the shortcomings of the lawyers rather than their virtues. Too much, however, cannot fairly be demanded of the legal profession in the way of charitable and unrequited service. The law is the lawyer's business and his means of livelihood. He has fitted himself for it by years of arduous preparation and ought not, any more than any other business man, to be expected to give the public too freely of his stock in trade."

R. H. G.

Appeal in Criminal Case Five Years After Original Trial.—The following is from the *New Jersey Law Journal* for December, 1911: "In 1906 a lawyer in Long Island was convicted of forgery in the first degree and sentenced to serve not more than five years in prison. Fully five years later, when, if guilty, he should have served his term and been released, his appeal was decided in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court confirming his conviction. In the meantime the defendant was free and under bonds to await the decision of the appeal. The appeal is said to have been based wholly on technicalities. This is one of the things which tend to nullify all the good arising from criminal laws supposed to be wise and of criminal procedure supposed to be prompt. We cannot conceive of any good excuse for the postponement of the hearing and decision of an appeal in a criminal case to five years after the original trial. If the event had happened in New Jersey it would have been widely noticed as a most unseemly departure from Jersey customs and practice, but somehow or other, it having occurred in the state of New York, we have not observed any press comment upon it. There is

REFORMS PROJECTED BY CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION

no question but that punishment for crime must be sure and swift, or the influence of good criminal laws is lost upon the community wherein there is such tardy enforcement. In striking contrast to the case noted above is the speedy conviction and sentence to death of five Italians charged with the murder of a woman in Westchester County, New York. The murder was committed on November 9, and twenty days later the defendants had all been arrested, tried and convicted, and two or three days later sentenced to death. Should there be an appeal in this latter case, we suspect it will be decided within a brief time as compared with the decision in the case of the lawyer. Can there be any suspicion on the part of anyone that it may sometimes happen that a foreigner or an ignorant citizen without friends might receive different treatment at the hands of some courts as to the speediness of the administration of justice from a wealthy man, or a man who has been somewhat distinguished in professional or other lines! We do not say that this is so, but there are a great many trials and appeals from trials in this country which furnish the foundation for just such a conclusion on the part of the public, and it is a matter to be deeply regretted by all friends of good order. The civilization of America is being tested in many ways as it never has been before, and one of these ways is in the line of quick or slow, fair or unfair, prejudiced or unprejudiced criminal procedure. Happily, New Jersey is a conspicuous instance of where objections to our criminal processes have not come to the front. There has been no occasion for them, and we hope there never may be."

R. H. G.

Expedition of Justice in New Jersey.--The *New Jersey Law Journal* for December, 1911, says that the New Jersey State Bar Association "has again taken the initiative, in an effort to provide some method by which the administration of justice in this state may be improved and expedited. It has appointed a committee to investigate and report upon this subject, which committee consists of former Justice Van Syckel, former Governor Fort, Supreme Court Justices Swayze and Bergen, Vice-Chancellors Walker and Howell, Judges Skinner and Gaskill, Senator Silzer, former Justice Gilbert Collins, William N. Clevenger and Frank H. Sommer.

"Two things are certain: First, that this committee is eminently capable of devising a plan of judicial procedure. Second, that the present dual plan in operation in this state ought to be improved, simplified and brought down to present needs and conditions.

"Nothing can be done in the way of voting on a constitutional amendment until 1914, and by that time the able committee may have devised a plan which the legislatures of 1913 and 1914 will approve and which the people will consider on its own merits."

R. H. G.

Reforms Projected by the Chicago Bar Association.--There is an extensive investigation being conducted by committees of the Chicago Bar Association with a view to bringing to light those members of the bar who are guilty of unprofessional conduct in the practice of their profession. It is the hope of these committees that blackmailing collection agencies and "ambulance chasers" may be done away with. There is, furthermore, a contemplated investigation of the judges of Cook County with the purpose of ascertaining whether it is possible to do away with country judges. This investi-